

Mitzi Rossillon

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to recognize Mitzi Rossillon of Butte with a 2009 Preservation Award for her outstanding achievements in both Montana historical archaeology and historic preservation. [Mitzi, will you please come forward?]

Since she began her Montana career as an archaeologist for the Montana Department of Transportation in 1985, Mitzi has worked to elevate our understanding and appreciation of historical archaeology as a discipline unto itself. The lead author on over 200 cultural resource reports in the SHPO library, she has probably evaluated more historic mining properties than any other professional in the state. She has worked at Bannack, in Basin and at German Gulch. Most recently as a consulting archaeologist for Renewable Technologies Inc, Mitzi performed an archaeological dig for Chinese artifacts with the Mai Wah Society in Uptown Butte. This urban archaeological dig captured the interest of Butte citizens and tourists alike - and brought new light to the important historical Chinese presence in Butte.

In the field of historic preservation, Mitzi has been a long-time volunteer and advocate. She has led many Montana Archaeological Society initiatives, including Montana Archaeology Week and the Committee for Conservation Archaeology. She is also a prominent member of the Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization, better known as Butte CPR, in their efforts to rally existing and would-be supporters of preservation in her adopted hometown. Along with other CPR members, Mitzi worked to save the O-Rourke Building, Dumas Brothel, and the Acoma Hotel from certain

demolition. All of this and she's still not too proud to remove trash from the street as she walks to work each morning [or is that just another form of urban archaeology?].

In both archaeology and in preservation, Mitzi's achievements may best be characterized as her taking commonly held beliefs, challenging them in a constructive way, and bringing about positive changes with benefits that go well beyond any sense of her personal satisfaction. Montana is better off for her work. [Please join me in congratulating Ms. Mitzi Rossillon for her outstanding achievements in historical archaeology and historic preservation.]